

From: Caroline Nash
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2008 4:55 PM
To: Markush.Comments; irfa.comments@uspto.gov
Cc: 'Marlana Titus'
Subject: Proposed Rule Changes Relating To Alternative Language

To Whom It May Concern:

The proposed rule change to limit the use of alternative language in claims is strongly objected to by the law firm of Nash & Titus, LLC. Markush language has been in effect for many decades and is a very useful tool to applicants for thoroughly claiming that which they believe to be their inventions. The practice of restriction requirements and divisional applications has been used by Examiners over the years to take care of multiple invention applications. The current Rules, as they stand, are more than sufficient to deal with overly burdensome applications. The proposed rule changes would make it cost prohibitive for small entities as well as the large entities to afford the prosecution of inventions in the U.S. Patent Office. This appears to be yet another attempt by the PTO to limit their examination responsibilities while continuing to annually increase their rates. If this rule takes effect, will the price of claims be reduced? Will the cost of divisional applications be reduced? Will the "20 total claim limit" be increased?

We vote NO to this rule change.

Yours truly,
Caroline Nash

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